

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are in the case. Claims 19-21 have been canceled without prejudice, in light of the Restriction Requirement.

Claims 1-18 are at issue.

Claim 1 (and, perforce, all Claims 2-18) has been amended to recite the gas impingement step. Basis is found at page 8, last paragraph to page 9, line 7. Claims 8 and 14 have been amended to correct minor transcribing errors. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from Claim 1. It is submitted that all amendments are fully supported, and entry is requested.

Affirmation of Claims Election

Pursuant to page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants herewith affirm the election of the claims of Group I (Claims 1-18) drawn to processes, classified in Class 252, subclass 573, for examination purposes.

Formal Matters

For the record, there are no objections or rejections under 35 USC 112 outstanding.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-18 stand rejected over U.S. 4,685,930, for reasons of record at pages 4-5 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections on this basis, to the extent they may apply to the claims, as amended herewith.

The present invention is a multi-stage cleaning/refreshing process for fabrics. The claims now recite the gas impingement step. As disclosed at page 8, l. 32-page 9, l. 7, this step is intended to assist in the removal of particulate soils from the fabric. By so doing, the "demand" on chemicals for removing such soils is desirably reduced.

It is submitted that nothing in '930 teaches or suggests the use of gas impingement in the first step of the disclosed process. Moreover, nothing in '930 suggests modifying the process disclosed therein to include such a step. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections on this basis are requested.

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Missing Documents

The Examiner (Office Action page 3) has indicated that a number of the foreign documents cited in the IDS have been misplaced by the USPTO.

Copies of the documents are enclosed for use by the Examiner, but no duplicate form PTO/SB08A is being submitted.

It is requested that all cited documents be made of record in the case.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, early and favorable action in the case is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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